

Biodiversity: the number of different species in an area, important for survival of a habitat. In a balanced environment there are controls, such as weather, availability of food, predators, diseases, or parasites that control the numbers in each species so there is a long term balance among them. Research into different environments found that those with the highest rates of diversity (with more than one species filling multiple niches) survive the best. People have accidentally or deliberately relocated species, not recognizing that there were no niches with controls in the new area. Introductions, habitat destruction, and over harvesting, have led to a global decline in the numbers of species or global biodiversity. We don't know what will be useful in the future, or even what our own generation's future needs will be. By reducing biodiversity we are limiting our problem solving options, as many of our solutions to problems have come from nature.